

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SSO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03  
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DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH,JR.:JCM  
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 219745

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER ON ANTI-DEMOCRATIC RULE  
IN KOREA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM  
42 CONGRESSMEN WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO THE WHITE HOUSE  
AUGUST 29. THE LETTER WAS SPONSORED BY CONGRESSMEN  
FASCELL AND FRASER AND CIRCULATED FOR THEIR COLLEAGUES'  
SIGNATURE EARLIER THIS MONTH.

2. BEGIN TEXT

A. WE ARE WRITING TO EXPRESS CONTINUING CONCERN OVER THE  
PLIGHT OF DEMOCRACY IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

B. RECENTLY, PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE WAS CERTIFIED FOR  
ANOTHER SIX-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE THROUGH AN ELECTORAL  
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PROCESS ALARMINGLY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION. HE  
WAS CHOSEN WITHOUT A SINGLE OPPOSING VOTE BY THE NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE FOR UNIFICATION, AN ELECTORAL COLLEGE CHAIRED  
BY PRESIDENT PARK HIMSELF. UNDER THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION,  
VOTING WAS BY SECRET BALLOT AND DEBATE WAS NOT PERMITTED.  
THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE ALSO SERVES AS A RUBBER STAMP FOR  
FILLING ONE-THIRD OF THE SEATS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WITH PERSONS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT. PERSONS  
AFFILIATED WITH POLITICAL PARTIES ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW  
FROM RUNNING FOR SEATS IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

C. WE BELIEVE THE STRENGTH OF OUR MILITARY ALLIANCE  
WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS BEING UNDERMINED BY ANTI-  
DEMOCRATIC RULE, OF WHICH PRESIDENT PARK'S REELECTION  
IS ONLY THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE. EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT  
OUR MOST DURABLE ALLIANCES ARE WITH GOVERNMENTS WHICH  
OWE THEIR AUTHORITY TO THE FREELY EXPRESSED WILL OF A  
MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO GIVE SOLID  
SUPPORT TO THE DEFENSE OF NON-DEMOCRATIC REGIMES.

D. IN YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE  
A VOICE TO STATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE RIGHTS OF MAN  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ALLIES AND ADVERSARIES ALIKE  
SHOULD KNOW THAT THE BASIC VALUES OF OUR PEOPLE WILL BE  
REFLECTED IN OUR FOREIGN POLICIES. YOU HAVE MADE THIS  
CLEAR TO THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COUNTRIES. WE URGE  
YOU ALSO TO INDICATE STRONGLY THAT AUTHORITARIANISM AMONG  
ALLIES IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE AIMS OF OUR ALLIANCES.  
AFTER 30 YEARS OF AMERICAN TUTELAGE, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
IS NOW A MILITARILY AND ECONOMICALLY STRONG DICTATORSHIP.  
IT MAY BE BEYOND THE POWER OF THE UNITED STATES TO RESTORE  
REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, BUT OUR WORDS AND ACTIONS SHOULD  
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LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE TAKE EXCEPTION TO ANTIDEMOCRATIC  
GOVERNMENT.

END TEXT.

∴ FOLLOWING CONGRESSMEN SIGNED THE LETTER TO THE  
PRESIDENT: FASCELL, FRASER, BEDELL, BEILENSEN,  
BRADEMAS, BURTON, JOHN; CAVANAUGH, CONYERS, DELLUMS,  
DIGGS, DOWNEY, DRINAN, EDGAR, EDWARDS, DON; EILBERG,  
FENWICK, GILMAN, GLICKMAN, HARKIN, HARRINGTON, HOLTZMAN,  
HUGHES, KILDEE, KREBS, LEHMAN, MARKEY, MEYNER, MITCHELL,  
MOFFETT, OTTENDER, PANETTA, PATTISON, PEASE, RANGEL,  
ROSENTHAL, ROYBAL, RYAN, SEIBERLING, SOLARZ, STUDDS,  
WEISS, WHALEN. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RGRICH,JR.:JCM  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1569747  
**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** CONGRESSIONAL LETTER ON ANTI-DEMOCRATIC RULE IN KOREA  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PGOV, KS, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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